

Message Text

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21

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SS-15

NSC-05 L-02 PA-02 PRS-01 /068 W

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P R 281118Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5103

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 0426

EB FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS; DEPT. PASS CAB

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: EAIR, NL

SUBJ: INITIAL REACTION DUTCH PRESS TO RESULTS OF FIRST

SESSION OF RESUMED CIVIL AIR TALKS IN THE HAGUE,

1-27-1975

1. THE TONE OF THE PRESS IS PESSIMISTIC. THE SUBJECT IS RECEIVING EXTENSIVE COVERAGE, ALSO ON THE RADIO. BELOW A SUMMARY OF THE MAIN HEADLINES IN THE MORNING PAPERS AND EXTRACTS FROM THE ONLY EDITORIAL COMMENT TO DATE, WHICH REFLECTS THE GENERAL ATTITUDES OF THE PRESS:

2. "VOLKSKRANT" CATHOLIC LABOR, LEFTIST 1.28.1975

"SOMBERNESS AFTER RESUMPTION"

"AIR TALKS FAR FROM POSITIVE"

THIS PAPER MENTIONS THAT ONE OF THE US' FEW VULNERABLE POINTS VIS A VIS HOLLAND WOULD BE THE THREAT THAT HOLLAND
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WOULD GIVE PREFERENCE TO A EUROPEAN CANDIDATE FOR

THE SUCCESSOR TO THE 'STARFIGHTER'. THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME THAT THIS POINT HAS BEEN THE OBJECT OF SPECULATION IN THE HAGUE. THE PAPER GOES ON TO QUOTE MINISTER WESTERTERP OF TRANSPORT, LEADER OF THE DUTCH DELEGATION AT THE TALKS, WHO GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE JAN. 27 AFTER THE FIRST SESSION OF THE TALKS. HE SAID: "I HAVE BECOME EXTREMELY SOMBER TODAY. THERE IS PERHAPS SOME FLEXIBILITY ON THE US SIDE, BUT THERE REMAINS UNDIMINISHED THE US CLAIM TO CUT DOWN OUR TRANSIT TRAFFIC." WESTERTERP ALSO TOLD THE CONFERENCE THAT HE HAD WARNED THE US DELEGATION THAT CERTAIN SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES ARE FOLLOWING THE TALKS IN THE HAGUE WITH 'ARGUS EYES'. THERE ARE THOUGHTS IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD ABOUT CUTTING DOWN US FLIGHT CAPACITY. WESTERTERP DIDN'T SAY SO IN SO MANY WORDS, BUT IT IS KNOWN THAT HE WAS REFERRING TO PERU, SAYS VOLKSKRANT.

3. "TROUW" CALVINIST 1.28.1975

"WESTERTERP SOMBER ABOUT KLM TALKS"

4. "ALGEMEEN DAGBLAD" INDEPENDENT CONSERVATIVE 1.28.1975

"KLM WITH ITS BACK TO THE WALL"

"WESTERTERP EXTREMELY SOMBER"

5. "TELEGRAAF" INDEPENDENT CONSERVATIVE 1.28.1975

"US DOESN'T KNOW WHAT YIELDING IS"

"BAD START FOR KLM TALKS"

6. EDITORIAL COMMENT: (IDENTICAL IN "ALGEMEEN DAGBLAD" AND "HET VADERLAND" BOTH INDEPENDENT CONSERVATIVE, OF 1.28.1975)

"FRIEND OR FOE?"

"THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE BEING CONDUCTED ON THE EDGE OF THE SWORD. FOR OUR COUNTRY THERE IS INDEED A LOT AT STAKE, NOT ONLY THE BREAKING OF THE BACK-BONE OF OUR ATLANTIC AIR TRAFFIC BUT, AS MINISTER WESTERTERP HAS SAID, THE THREAT OF A DETERIORATION IN RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRY AND THE US. THE US IS BEHAVING NOT AS AN ALLY, BUT AS AN ECONOMIC ENEMY WHO WANTS TO HIT HOLLAND IN A TENDER SPOT... THIS US PROTECTIONISM TOUCHES HOLLAND TO THE QUICK AND NO GOVERNMENT, WHATEVER ITS POLITICAL COLOR, CAN ACCEPT THIS."

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, CIVIL AVIATION, MEETINGS, AIR ROUTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975THEHA00426
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750031-0035
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750112/aaaaakvg.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 MAY 2003 by JonesKG>; APPROVED <06 JAN 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INITIAL REACTION DUTCH PRESS TO RESULTS OF FIRST SESSION OF RESUMED CIVIL AIR TALKS IN THE HAGUE
TAGS: EAIR, NL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006